

## UNTITLED

Carol Thornton

The ugly, hairless, pink snout was arched skyward, head trembling in weak defiance. Rivulets of creamy, yellow mucous flowed thickly from the unseeing eyes. Its wickedly long, sharp claws were now curled innocently beneath the body. Only the mouth could still exercise the creature's pride. The lips curled, several white teeth were revealed, but only a pitiful attempt at a snarl emerged, too laden with pain to be at all fearful. Its body suddenly shuddered violently and then seemed absurdly to deflate. The scaley reptilian tail twitched twice, and then the sneering mouth relaxed into nonexpression. Oh, opossum, what divine purpose could you have possibly fulfilled?

